

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 8, 12, 16, 18 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Bozzo U.S. Patent 6,390,333. Claims 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17, 19, 20 and 26-29 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, with an indication that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this response, claims 5, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 26, 28 and 29 are amended to independent form, in each case incorporating the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the Examiner's indication of allowability, it is thus believed that the following claims are in allowable form: independent claims 5, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 26, 28 and 29, along with respective dependent claims 6, 7, 9, 14 and 27.

The remaining claims have been amended in a manner believed to patentably define over the Bozzo reference.

Bozzo discloses an illuminating device for attachment to a spray can. The illuminating device is adapted for engagement with a spray can using a can-engaging clip 30. A trigger 26 includes a pivotable finger engaging part 40 having an outer end that contacts the plunger of the spray can. The device 20 includes a barrel-shaped upper portion 44 having a light 50. As stated in column 3, lines 61-65, "light 50 is preferably of the type having a lens portion 52 and a bulb 53 in the extreme end of the light 50 so as to produce a relatively wide beam of light 54. It is preferred to have the wide beam to completely light the area being sprayed."

The object of the present invention is to provide a lighting arrangement for a spray can, the object of which is directly opposite to that of the Bozzo reference.

In Bozzo, the object of the invention is to illuminate the entire surface onto which the spray is directed. In direct contrast, the object of the

present invention is to direct a light beam into the spray pattern. The light beam strikes the surface and forms a point of light, which is used by the operator to determine the position of the spray can relative to the surface.

The claims have been amended to emphasize this distinction of the invention over the Bozzo reference. Specifically, claim 1 is amended to state that the spray container includes a nozzle that directs a spray onto a surface in a spray pattern. Claim 1 is also amended to state that the light beam positioning arrangement, which projects at least one light beam toward the surface, includes a light beam generator that generates a linear light beam. Claim 1 is further amended to specify that the spray container mounting structure and the light beam positioning arrangement are configured such that the linear light beam from the light beam generator is directed toward the surface within the spray pattern. Claim 1 further specifies that the linear light beam defines a point of light within the spray pattern upon striking the surface, to provide a reference point for the user in determining the position of the spray container relative to the surface.

As noted above, Bozzo discloses a system for illuminating a wide area of the surface being sprayed, and has nothing to do with positioning the spray container. In direct contrast, as set forth in claim 1, the present invention directs a linear beam of light into the spray pattern, which is used to determine the position of the spray container relative to the surface.

For the above reasons, claim 1 is believed to patentably define over the Bozzo reference. A review of the remaining references of record similarly fails to show or suggest the claimed subject matter, and accordingly claim 1 is believed allowable.

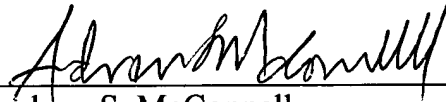
Claims 2-4 and 8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are thus believed allowable for the above reasons, as well as in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Independent claims 12, 18 and 24 have been amended along the same lines as claim 1. For the same reasons as noted above with respect to claim 1, it is also believed that such claims patentably define over the Bozzo reference, as well as the remaining references of record, and are allowable. Claims 16, 21-23 and 25 depend from claims 12, 18 and 24, respectively, and are thus also believed allowable.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place the application into condition for allowance with claims 1-29, and such action is earnestly requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by phone if questions remain after consideration of this response, or if such would otherwise facilitate prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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